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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA:DLJAMESON/CGDUNKERLEY:SB
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P 312357Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 021240

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG
SUBJECT: SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE
WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL FOR HIS INFORMATION ONLY

1. THE FOLLOWING EXERPTS FROM SEVERAL RECENT REPORTS RELATING TO THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE ARE TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. FRENCH POSITION--UPON RECEIVING OUR VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE FROM OUR EMBASSY IN PARIS, MFA DIRECTOR OF ECONOMICS BRUNET SAID JOBERT HAD NOT YET GIVEN AN INKLING OF WHETHER FRANCE WOULD ATTEND AND THUS NO EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

3. PRIME MINISTER MESSMER PUBLICLY DEFENDED FRANCE AGAINST CHARGES THAT IT IS IMPEDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, BUT HELD THAT IT WOULD BE "ILLOGICAL AND DANGEROUS" TO SUBSCRIBE TO U.S. PLANS FOR CONCERTED
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ACTION.

4. EC DISCUSSIONS OF WASHINGTON CONFERENCE--USEC REPORTS THAT THE INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THE WASHINGTON ENERGY

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CONFERENCE BY THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON JANUARY 30 REVEALED A CLEAR DIVISION, WITH EIGHT STATES FAVORING A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON BUT FRANCE INSISTING THE MEETING BE LIMITED TO PROCEDURES AND QUESTIONS TO BE TAKEN UP IN PREPARATION FOR A BROADER CONFERENCE. THE FRENCH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT IS NOT LIKELY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE.

5. JAPAN SIGNALS CAUTION--A JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY TOKYO'S PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, INDICATED A CAUTIOUS JAPANESE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE. HE WAS SPECIFICALLY CONCERNED OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCES, THE NEED FOR AN EARLY START OF COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING, AND THE MECHANISM FOR BRINGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE OIL PRODUCING NATIONS INTO ENERGY DISCUSSIONS. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT JAPANESE ATTITUDES HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE YAMANI-ABDESSALEM VISIT.

6. OIL PRICES--YAMANI CONTINUES TO MAKE SOOTHING NOISES ON FUTURE OIL PRICES: HE EXPECTS FAISAL TO SEND PERSONAL LETTERS ASKING OTHER GULF PRODUCERS TO JOIN IN CUTTING PRICES. BUT IN VIENNA, OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL KHENE DID NOT SUPPORT YAMANI, SAYING FURTHER PRICE RISES WERE INEVITABLE.
7. SAUDI-JAPANESE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS--WASHINGTON POST JANUARY 31 CONTAINS A REPORT FROM TOKYO THAT YAMANI IS SOON TO SIGN BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE JAPANESE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THIS REPORT AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA TOLD US HE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM TOKYO ABOUT THE DEAL, THAT HE SUSPECTED THE ARTICLE WAS MOSTLY GUESSWORK, AND THAT HE WOULD ASK HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR A QUICK REPORT WHICH HE COULD PASS TO US.
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8. THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO THE SAUDIS FOR SOME WEEKS ABOUT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WOULD SATISFY SAUDI ASPIRATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVE JAPAN'S IMAGE AS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY. THIS "UMBRELLA AGREEMENT" IS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO REPORTS THAT IT PROVIDES FOR FIXED PRICES, QUANTITIES OR SCHEDULES FOR PETROLEUM DELIVERIES TO JAPAN.

9. WE HAVE ASKED EMBASSY TOKYO FOR A REPORT ON WHAT THE JAPANESE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH THE ARABS. KISSINGER

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